

# The Library Assistant:

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## THE APRIL MEETING.

The April Meeting will take place at St. Bride Institute, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C., on Wednesday, **April 19th**, at **7.30 p.m.**, not on April 21st, as announced in the programme. Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Sub-Librarian of the Croydon Public Libraries, and Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee of the L.A.A., will read a paper on "Library Bulletins." The discussion will be opened by Mr. George E. Roebuck. Following the discussion on Mr. Sayers' paper, Mr. G. F. Vale, Charge-Assistant of the Juvenile Section, St. George's Library, Stepney, (a junior member), will present a paper on "Children's Libraries." The discussion will be opened by two other junior members. All library assistants are cordially invited. Every endeavour will be made to make this meeting specially interesting to juniors, whether members or not, and it is earnestly hoped that our junior colleagues will second these efforts by appearing in large numbers.

The April meeting promises to be an interesting one, providing as it does matter for discussion for the most advanced as for the most juvenile member. The subject Mr. Sayers has chosen is one which is very prominent in modern library work. There are about thirty bulletins published in England at present, and the number of libraries publishing them increases yearly. Every assistant, therefore, would do well to gain a clear idea of the principles on which the bulletins should be based. We believe bulletin work can be systematised into a real science. Mr. Sayers has evidently the same opinion, as anyone who has read the first article of a series on the subject he is writing in collaboration with Mr. James D. Stewart in the "Library World" will admit. This article also contains many decided opinions on what should, and what should not, be included in a library bulletin, all of which are thoroughly debatable. We hope the attendance will be good, and the debate of much practical value.

Mr. Vale's paper is designed especially to appeal to our younger members. We wish it more and more widely known that the L.A.A. makes a special appeal to junior assistants. It is most interesting to notice that the discussion will be opened also by juniors. This is a development in our work which we shall watch with keenest interest. We hope many junior members will come forward and express their beliefs, their experiences, their aims on this everyday part of library administration—the working of children's libraries. Juniors, we know, are often nervous and afraid to discuss. This is easy to understand; but a little thought will soon convince them how unnecessary, how uncalled for, this nervousness is. We ask them to come in numbers: we hope, when they come, they will not be afraid to speak, and speak well.

## WEST HAM MEETING.

This meeting was held on March 15th, at the Canning Town Library, when about a hundred members and friends were present to do honour to Mr. Cotgreave's generous hospitality. Our kind host was unable to be present on account of ill-health, and the guests were welcomed by Mr. and

Mrs. S. A. Hatcher. We need scarcely say how heartily all members of our Association sympathise with Mr. Cotgreave in his illness, and we sincerely wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

After tea there was an interval of about half an hour, which many members devoted to an inspection of this admirably directed library. Mr. Frank E. Chennell, Librarian of the Willesden Green Public Library, then took the Chair, and the business of the evening began. Letters were read from Mr. Cotgreave and the Chairman of the West Ham Libraries Committee regretting their absence through illness. Mr. Chennell then called upon Mr. R. A. Peddie to give an address entitled,

“LIBRARIANSHIP AS A PROFESSION.”

In the course of his remarks, Mr. Peddie said that in the early libraries the librarian was for the most part a book-worm and scholar. That age is past, as also is that of the bibliophile. Now is the age of the practical business man in the library. Most of the younger school of librarians in England and America were long-headed men of affairs, who, taking up librarianship as a profession, conducted their libraries on the most up-to-date business principles. He earnestly urged the necessity of closer organisation than at present existed in our profession. The Library Association had done in the past, and was still doing, good work, but it had not done all that was necessary; indeed, constituted as it was, he doubted whether it could do all that was necessary. He proceeded to draw a comparison between the Library Association and the Chemical Society, both of which societies existed to further scientific advancement and the increase of knowledge. Chemists, however, recognised that one society was not sufficient to protect the members of the profession and to deal with cases of incompetency and professional etiquette. The Institute of Chemists was thereupon founded to deal with such questions. Mr. Peddie urged that an institution of this kind would be desirable in our own calling. The Library Association as a society for the study of Library Economy and Bibliography, has taken up the education of persons wishing to enter the library profession; but it asked no statement of qualifications except some sort of interest in the work. He was strongly of opinion that the Library Association should be confined only to Librarians. This would give more weight to the Society, and to the certificates of proficiency issued by them. When questions of professional etiquette arise, the Library Association cannot deal with them, because many of its members are not Librarians. Mr. Peddie then outlined a scheme for the foundation of an Institute of Librarians, a Society whose chief purpose should be to ensure and improve the technical proficiency of those practicing the profession. Above all, it is with the future of the profession as determined by the training and character of those entering its ranks that such an institute would be chiefly concerned; and to this end it should appoint a Board to examine all persons wishing to enter the profession. Thus, its declared purpose should be the gradual elevation and advancement of the profession in general, on the one hand by the educational and other demands made on everyone admitted to its ranks, and on the other hand by the inducement which admission to membership of the corporation will hold out to educated men. Its object should be to raise the standard of competency and conduct among those engaged in library work, demanding, on their part, the possession of qualifications prescribed by the Institute. Such a society, concluded Mr. Peddie, would entail little or no expense, and would afford special advantages, both social and material, to all engaged in librarianship, especially in bringing about a feeling of respect on the part of the public for the individual librarian on account of the profession to which he belongs.

The address was followed by a most animated discussion.

Mr. Chennell thought the Library Association could deal with questions of professional etiquette, such as the practice of some librarians to give testimonials to men who had never worked under them.

Mr. Bursill suggested that the reason why the rules of the Institute of Chemists were so severe was that they dealt with dangerous drugs, and public safety demanded these rigid restrictions; but he did not think such strictness necessary in a calling such as librarianship.

Mr. Frowde agreed that librarianship should be made a closed profession. He believed in combination, and thought an entirely new system of education was necessary.

Mr. Coltman dwelt in a whimsical manner on the troubles of a student at the L.A. Classes. In his opinion one lecturer taught one thing, and the next contradicted him, and in the end, the hapless student was left where he was before.

Mr. Bridle found himself as usual in friendly opposition to Mr. Peddie. He thought such an Institute would prove quite as useless as the present Library Association. The only hope for us was for Public Libraries to be taken over by the State and administered by the State.

Mr. East, late Chairman of the West Ham Libraries Committee, was glad to have been present, and regretted the absence of his old friend, Mr. Cotgreave. He thought librarianship was decidedly a profession, and a very important one.

Mr. Newland asked us cordially to support Mr. Peddie's proposition.

Mr. Thorne, in moving the vote of thanks to Mr. Peddie, congratulated him on his recent bibliographical discovery. He was disappointed with Mr. Peddie's address, though he was very pleased to see him among us again.

Mr. Coltman seconded the motion.

Mr. Peddie then dealt briefly with the various points raised in the debate.

Mr. Bursill moved the vote of thanks to Mr. Cotgreave and the West Ham Libraries Committee, and with them he coupled the names of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Hatcher.

This was seconded by Mr. Rivers.

Mr. Hatcher then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Chennell for presiding at the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Hugh Smith.

#### PRINTERS OF ENGLAND (2).—JOHN DAY.

By F. J. P. BURGONE (Battersea Public Libraries).

John Day was born in the year 1522, at Dunwich, in Suffolk; a large and flourishing town in his time, but now, owing to the encroachment of the sea, only a small village with scarcely a trace of its former importance.

Day was one of the best and most enterprising of the long line of famous printers to which this country has given birth. He was the first English letter founder of whom we possess any authentic record, and was one of the earliest English printers of music. He was fortunate in living in an age when printing had firmly established itself as the recognised medium through which the learning of all time could be transmitted, and also at that period in the history of English literature, when Poetry and Prose were making such strides towards perfection, owing to the assimilation of the various English dialects which was then taking place in our language. Day, it is true, was not a pioneer printer in the strict sense of the word, but he knew how to reap where others had sown—a talent which makes up in usefulness for what it may lack in originality.

Yet Day, in continuing the good work begun by William Caxton, had many difficulties to overcome before he was able to raise the art of printing to that state of perfection to which it attained in his hands.

It is not for certain known where Day learnt the art of printing, and we can only surmise that it was at the hands of Thomas Gibson, a London printer, whose device, a sleeper awakened by one who points to the rising sun, was used by Day with the punning motto, "Arise, for it is day." Probably the first book which he printed was the "Tragical death of David Beaton, Bishop of St. Andrew's." This was published at "The Sign of the Resurrection," on Snow Hill, in the year 1546, in conjunction with a partner named William Seres, about whom we know little or nothing. In the following year the two partners printed several books, mostly of a religious character, chief among which were Cope's "Godly Meditacion upon the Psalms" and Tyndale's "Parable of the Wicked Mammon." In 1548 there appeared from their press an edition of the "Consultation" of Hermann, Bishop of Cologne, Cowley's "Confutation of Myles Hoggarde," a metrical dialogue, entitled "John Bon and Mast Person," and the Herbal of William Turner. These books were nearly all octavo in size, and several were without pagination or printer's device. The type, which consisted of a small fount of black letter and a fount of Roman capitals, was very unevenly set and distinctly the worse for wear. In fact, the workmanship as displayed in these books can only be described as bad, and of a lower level than that attained by the majority of contemporary printers. During this same year (1548), Day's partner, William Seres, left him to join partnership with another London printer, Anthony Scoloker, and although from this time onwards Day appears to have worked by himself, he still placed Seres' name with his own on the title pages of his books until the year 1551, when the partnership was finally dissolved.

In 1549, Day moved from the "Signe of the Resurrection" to Aldersgate, where, according to Stow, "he builded much upon the wall of the City, towards the parishe gate of St. Anne." In this year Day published an edition of the Bible. It was printed in double-columned pages, with two founts of small black letter and some good initial letters. In addition, this Bible was illustrated with woodcuts, which, as they often extended beyond the margin of the printed matter, had most probably seen service elsewhere with some other printer. In 1551 there appeared from Day's press another edition of this Bible, in which was printed a very good initial letter "E," showing Edward VI. seated on his throne. In September of the next year, 1552, Day obtained from the King a license to print Poyntet's "Catechism" in Latin and English, but Reginald Wolf, on whom had previously been conferred the privilege of printing all books in Latin, naturally enough opposed the license. In view of this opposition it was finally decided that Day should print the "Catechism" in English, leaving the Latin edition for Wolf to publish.

On the accession of Mary to the English Throne, in 1553, Day was imprisoned for his religious belief, in company with John Rogers, one of the first martyrs of that period, but by some means he managed to escape and fled abroad, his press for this reason being silent for several years. It was during his residence on the Continent that Day most likely first became acquainted with John Foxe, the noted Martyrologist. Like Day, he had been compelled to quit England during the Marian persecution, because of his religious opinions. Though an exile from his native land, Foxe was by no means idle in his misfortune, for we find him busily engaged upon a Latin treatise on the persecutions of the reformers, which was printed for him at Strasburg in 1554, and again at Basle in 1559, when there appeared from his pen a Latin edition of his famous Book of Martyrs.

As a true librarian is never so much at home as when he is amongst his books, so Day (we like to think) could not be really happy away from a printing press. That he often visited the presses of the printers established in the various Continental towns at which he stayed, we firmly believe. Naturally enough, by this means he would be able to increase his knowledge of his craft, and take to heart any of the improved methods of printing then in vogue on the Continent which came under his notice. Whether Day's after-success as a printer is due to this or to any other reason, apart from sentiment, does not matter in the least. What is really important is the fact that soon after his return to England Day gave to the world books, the like of which, for excellent printing, had never been seen before.

Day is generally supposed to have returned to his native land about the year 1556 or 1557. Of the two dates we are rather inclined to favour the latter. Though Day's name was entered as a freeman of the Stationers' Company in their Charter of 1556, it does not necessarily follow that he was in England in that time, but ample proof is forthcoming of his presence in London in the following year, when several books were issued from his press, bearing the date 1557.

These books, which included an "Almanack and Pronostication" and a "Sarum Missale," were not by any means conspicuous for good workmanship in their production, and it was not until two years after, in 1559, that Day began to show any great improvement in his method of printing. In that year there appeared from his press the "Cosmographical Glasse" of William Cunningham, a folio, well printed in a large Italic letter. This was illustrated with some fine woodcut initial letters, and several diagrams and maps, while at the end can be seen a device frequently used by Day, representing a skeleton stretched upon a tomb. On the title page were also engraved allegorical figures, representing the arts and sciences. The book was dedicated to Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and an initial letter "D," which is to be seen on one of its pages contains the arms of his patron's family.

In the next three years, 1560 to 1562, Day published the Collected Works of Thomas Becon, the Reformer, the "Commentaries" of Joannes Philippon, printed by Day for Nicholas England, and sermons of Calvin, Bullinger and Latimer. Of the books mentioned, Becon's works were perhaps the most important. They occupied three large folio volumes, and were printed in two sizes of black letter type, with some Italic and Roman. With each volume was a title page, upon which was printed an architectural border, having in the bottom panel Day's device showing a sleeper awakened.

In the year 1563 Day printed the earliest collection of Psalm tunes, published in England. It was entitled "The Whole Psalmes in four partes, which may be sung to all musical instruments." To the same year also belongs a handsome folio edition of Foxe's Book of Martyrs, under the title "Acts and Monumentes of these latter and perillous dayes, touching matters of the Church." The type used for printing this was a small fount of English black letter, with various sizes of Italic and Roman. The printed matter occupied 2,008 folio pages and was set out in double columns. Many woodcut illustrations, representing the cruel tortures which the martyrs had to undergo, together with some well executed initial letters, relieved the sombre pages of the letter-press. One initial letter in particular, a letter "E," can specially be commended for its fine design; it shows Queen Elizabeth seated on her throne, surrounded by her courtiers. By Royal Proclamation, it was ordered that every Parish Church should possess a copy of this book, and as Day had issued no less than four editions by the year 1583, it must be

concluded that both he and the author were more than satisfied with their venture.

Foxe had returned to England in 1559, when he settled in Aldgate, and often visited the printing house of John Day. The relationship of the two friends was of a very intimate nature, and gave rise to a not very flattering "squib" found by Dr. Bliss on a blank leaf at the end of a manuscript of the "Pricke of Conscience" in the Bodleian Library. It ran as follows:

"The grave counsell of Gravesend barge,  
Give the Jhon Daye a pryvylege large,  
To put this in prynt for his gaynes,  
Because in the Legend of Lyes he taketh paynes;  
Commendinge others upon payne of slavery  
That none prynt thys but Jhon Daye,  
The prynter of Foxe his knavery."

John Day was fortunate in possessing many influential patrons. The most powerful of these was perhaps Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, a scholarly Churchman and a noted book-collector. Through his interest Day was able, about the year 1566, to cast a fount of Saxon type in metal. This fount had eight Saxon capitals, including two diphthongs, and twelve Saxon lower-case letters, all the rest of the alphabet, both large and small, being Roman. The casting of this fount reflects great credit on Day as a typefounder, for it is said by competent judges to have excelled in accuracy, neatness and beauty, even the splendid types cast for Francis Junius at Dort, which were presented by him to the University of Oxford in 1677. The first book to be printed with this Saxon fount was Aelfric's "Saxon Homily," a Church Service book printed in octavo about the year 1567 under the title of "A Testimonie of Antiquity." The fount was again used in 1568 to print Lombard's "Archaionomia," a book of Saxon laws, and in 1574, when Asser's "Life of Alfred the Great" appeared. In the last mentioned book, the Saxon fount was used in conjunction with Roman and Italic, and from the technical point of view, was probably the finest book issued by Day.

In 1567, Day printed Archbishop Parker's metrical version of the Psalter, and in the following year a folio edition of Martyn's "Commentary to the Romans." In this same year (1568), Day also printed the "De excidio et conquestu Britanniae" of Gildas, the Historian, and Vander-noot's "Theatre for Worldlings," in French, a copy of which is in the Grenville Library at the British Museum.

In 1569, as the printer and compiler, Day published what is known as the first edition of Queen Elizabeth's Prayer Book, under the title of "Christian Prayers and Meditations in English, French, Italian, Spanish, Greeke and Latine." The only known copy of this book is in the Lambeth Palace Library. It is a quarto in size, and is printed in a fount of black letter, which is surrounded by a woodcut border, representing the Dance of Death, and Scriptural subjects, not unlike in character, the French "Heures de la Vierge" so marvellously designed and engraved by Geoffroy Tory, in 1520. Day's next venture was to reprint "The Tragedy of Gorboduc," under the title of "The Tragidie of Ferrex and Porrex." This was published in the year 1570, and was one of the very few work in the romantic vein produced by him. To the same year belong a well-printed edition of Roger Ascham's "Scholmaster," and the first English translation of Euclid.

In 1571, Day appears to have used a new device. It may be briefly described as two hands holding a slab, on which a crucible with a heart surrounded by fire and the word "Christus" appears. To the wrists hangs a chain, and in the centre of this is suspended a globe, while under-

neath is the sun. Round the chain are the words, "Horum Charitas." The first book to contain this device was the "Reformatio Legum Ecclesiasticarum," which was published in that year, together with several others, namely, "The Booke of certaine Canons," "The Articles of the London Synod of 1562" and a reprint of George Alley's discourse, entitled, "The Poore Man's Librarie."

By this time Day's business had grown to such a large extent that his premises at Aldersgate became too small for his needs. He therefore applied to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's for permission to set up a small shop for the sale of his books in St. Paul's Churchyard. This permission he obtained, but he was at first prevented from availing himself of this opportunity of extending his business by the opposition raised against his project by a number of rival printers, who, looking with envious eyes upon his growing prosperity, had prevailed upon the Lord Mayor to stop Day's proceedings. Day, fortunately for himself, was able, through the influence of his powerful friends, to get an order from the Privy Council, which out-weighed the Lord Mayor's decision.

In the year 1572, Day printed Dr. Clerke's Latin treatise, "Fidelis Servi subdito fideli Responsio," a book written by direction of Archbishop Parker as a reply to one entitled, "De Visibili Monarchia." For the printing of this book, a special fount of Roman letter was cast at a cost of forty marks. This year is also of some importance to bibliographers, as being the one in which the first known book printed at a private press was published. This was the "De Antiquitate Britannica Ecclesiae," printed at the Archbishop's private press at Lambeth Palace. The type used was a specially cast fount of Italic, together with some Roman. Only fifty copies were printed, the bulk of which were still in the possession of the Archbishop at the time of his death in 1575.

The printing press has always reflected, especially in England, the true feelings of the people. In looking through the life of Day, one is struck with the fact that his work lay almost entirely with the Reformation. Men's minds were solely engaged upon the religious questions of the time. Doctrine and dogma had for them even more meaning and importance than they have for us. Day, as the printer of Parker's books, only published those authorised by the Established Church, but opposition to the clergy often took a visible shape in the large number of books, issued of necessity at secret presses, upholding the views of antagonistic religious sects. One book in particular, the "Second Admonition to Parliament," proved a sharp thorn for Elizabeth and the Church of which she was the head. This was secretly-issued by Thomas Cartwright, in 1572. It strongly defended those men who had been imprisoned for their religious opinions, and it became so popular that Day, as one of the Wardens of the Stationers' Company, was compelled to search diligently for its authors. The press was discovered, and the printers connected with it were arrested. Curiously enough, one of them turned out to be an apprentice belonging to Day himself, named Asplyn. This apprentice was pardoned, on Day offering to take him into his service again, but gratitude was not one of his weaknesses, for in the following year he made an unsuccessful attempt on the lives of both his master and his wife.

In 1573, Day published the works of William Tyndale, John Frith, and Dr. Barnes, in two folio volumes. This book was printed in double-columned pages in a fount of type closely resembling that used for Bacon's works in 1560. During the same year, Day printed the "Life of Bishop Jewel," chiefly remarkable for the number of Hebrew words it contains, which were not cast in metal but cut in wood. The writings of John Caius, a series of volumes relating to the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, was printed by Day in 1574. The entire work consists

of four separate books, each of which is supplied with a distinctive title of its own. The whole of the series, however, can usually be found bound together. These books were printed in a fount of Italic type, with some small Roman for the indexes, and were supplied with a few illustrations.

In examining some of the books printed by Day, wherein the Italic and Roman founts are used together, one cannot help noticing the neat appearance of the printed matter as compared with that of other printers. This is mainly due to the care he took, when casting his type, of having each fount of the same size. In this way Italic and Roman could be used side by side, without a single marring effect to be seen in the letterpress.

In the year 1575, Day lost a most generous patron in the death of Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury. Only students of this great man's life work can form any idea of the extent to which he fostered the learning of his time. John Day, in company with other printers, owed much to his generosity, and it was mainly owing to this encouragement that most of the good printing of this period was due.

In 1577, Day printed a curious book, entitled, "General and rare Memorials concerning Navigation," written by John Dee, astronomer. This book possessed a rather clever allegorical woodcut title-page, on which could be seen Queen Elizabeth seated in a ship. Day next printed a school book, which he published in the following year, entitled, "Christianæ pietatis institutio." It was written in the Greek and Latin languages, and the printing was of excellent workmanship.

In the next year, 1579, Day was elected to the proud position of Master of the Stationers' Company. This Company had been granted a Royal Charter in 1556. It included as members all the most influential men connected with the book trade. It made laws for the benefit of the trade it represented, and had the power to hunt out and destroy all secret presses. It also exercised a certain amount of jurisdiction over the issue of books, by keeping registers in which printers, on payment of a small fee, could enter the names of the books printed by them. This Company, in addition, registered the names of the Wardens, Masters, and Apprentices, and generally protected their interests whenever necessary. As will be seen by this short summary of its powers, the Company was very powerful, and embraced all sections of the craft connected with the production and sale of books.

While Day had thus reached to the height of prosperity, many of the poorer printers found it increasingly hard to get even a bare living at their craft, owing to the iniquitous system of granting patents or restrictions to print certain books. These monopolies were not restricted to printing only, but embraced every saleable commodity on which a good profit could be made. They were, in fact, unconstitutional perquisites of the reigning monarchs, who granted to certain of their subjects, generally for monetary considerations, or as a reward for services rendered, rights or privileges to sell goods of a special nature. Elizabeth, true to her grasping nature, had, in order to fill her purse, granted to the richest printers patents to print and publish various books. Day himself possessed a great many such rights, of which he is said to have afterwards relinquished no less than fifty-three. In this way all the best paying books were the sole property of a few rich printers, and only the poorer class of work was left to their less fortunate brethren. This state of affairs could not last for any length of time, for starvation is always an unfailing incentive to action. In 1577, many of the stationers and printers appealed to the Queen, complaining of the "privileges granted to privatt persons," and praying her to redress their wrongs. A few printers, not content with complaining, headed by Roger Ward and John Wolf, took the law into their own hands



and began to produce and circulate some of the most popular of the privileged books. One of these, the "A.B.C. and littell Catechism," for the printing of which the right was owned by Day, was reprinted by Ward to the number of ten thousand copies. For this act Ward was arrested and brought before the Court of Star Chamber, but he and his fellow culprits so openly defied imprisonment that many patents were at last relinquished by their owners for the benefit of the poorer members of the printing trade.

A short time after this struggle for freedom, John Day died, at Walden in Essex, aged 62, on the 23rd July, 1584, and was buried a few days afterwards at Bradley Farva, in Suffolk. Of his private life we know little or nothing. He was twice married and was the father of twenty-six children, of whom one son, Richard, was for a short time a printer. Day himself was a staunch supporter of the Reformed English Church, and as we have seen, went into exile rather than renounce his religious views. As a printer, he had a prosperous and active career of nearly forty years, and will always be looked up to with something akin to reverence by members of his craft, for the excellent work which he produced.

#### PROFICIENCY TESTS.

English Literature, in the order of Proficiency with the Examiner's remarks.

Recognising the difficulty of covering such a large question adequately in a concise reply, I am bound to say that I consider the papers very satisfactory. They show that the principal points of development have been comprehended, although one or two notable omissions occur. I have no hesitation in placing "Sudo's" paper in Class I., followed by that of "Liber." "Renrugecnirpsenoj," I place in Class II., and "Chaucer," which I consider promising in one so young, I can only put in Class III.

If an examiner is permitted to express a personal opinion, I would express my regret that Cowper's part in the return of poetry to Nature receives so little recognition. That struck me as being the chief omission.

W. E. DOUBLEDAY.

#### ENGLISH LITERATURE.

"Sudo," T. W. GLAZIER, Tate Library, Streatham.

"Liber," FRANK DALLIMORE, Public Library, Wimbledon.

#### ELEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHY: in order of Proficiency, with the Examiner's remarks.

##### FIRST CLASS.

1. "Stenographer."

GEORGE A. STEPHEN,  
Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.

"An excellent paper, displaying a very intelligent knowledge of the subject. I can only say that it is a pleasure to examine papers such as this, reflecting as they do, much credit upon the members of the Library Assistants' Association."

2. "Philobiblion."

CHARLES A. HARRIS,  
Bishopsgate Institute, E.C.

"An excellent paper. This student should continue his reading and researches in the history and practical side of bibliography."

"Sudo."

T. W. GLAZIER,

Tate Library, Streatham.

"An excellent paper. This student should go on and broaden his reading somewhat. He displays an intelligent and appreciative interest in the subject which he should continue to foster." [Bracketed with "Philobiblion."]

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SECOND CLASS.

"Biblos."

"Good. The student has grasped the essential features of the evolution of the various methods and materials employed to transmit knowledge, but he needs to read a little wider and deeper. Let him not be satisfied with the conclusions of one authority, but read all round his subject, and he will be amply repaid for his trouble."

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THIRD CLASS.

"Aspirant." (Age 15.)

"This student is evidently a beginner. He displays an intelligent interest in the subject, but must read a good deal before he can lay claim to a grasp of the importance of, and the relationship of, one method to the other in the process of development. Let him go on with his reading and study and "aspire" to a knowledge of the subject in all its bearings, and he will become a much more efficient member of the craft of librarianship. In this way work will be robbed of the monotony which is experienced by the mere perfunctory mechanical assistant. I am sorry I cannot give a second class to this student as an encouragement, but he must not be discouraged."

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NOT CLASSED.

"Bunkered."

"Trachis."

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HENRY GUPPY.

Mr. Guppy presented to each candidate a copy of the "John Rylands Library Catalogue of an Exhibition of Manuscripts and Printed Books."

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THE COMMITTEE.

The eighth meeting of the Committee was held at the Public Library, Stoke Newington, on the 22nd of March.

Present: Mr. Thorne (in the Chair), and Messrs. Bullen, Coutts, Faraday, Harper, Harris, Hatcher, Poulter, Rees, Rivers, Roebuck, Sayers, Smith, and Sureties.

The ordinary business matters were attended to, and 11 new members were enrolled.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

**Bermondsey.**—An inquiry has been held relative to the proposal to borrow a sum of £2,500 for the purchase of the old St. John's Institute, Tooley Street, and an adjoining house for the purpose of a public library. Plans were produced showing the provision of a newsroom, lending and reference departments, boys' and ladies' departments, and librarian's quarters. There was considerable opposition to the scheme, especially as regards the proposed removal from the Fair Street Institute, by the Governors of the Charity.

**Blacking Out** of betting news has been decided upon at Swansea and Chiswick.

**Camberwell.**—Plans have been submitted to the Borough Council with a view to carrying out alterations and additions to the Dulwich Public Library for the provision of a reference department. The work is estimated to cost £400.

**Hamilton (N.B.)**—At a meeting of the Town Council recently the Public Library Committee submitted a statement showing that the lowest offers for the construction of the building aggregated £14,272 2s., and reported that the architect and measurer had given it as their opinion that the work would be done at this amount. A letter was submitted from Mr. Washington Brown, architect, of Edinburgh, the adviser of Mr. Carnegie, donor of the library, suggesting that they should impress on their architects the absolute necessity of keeping the cost within the sum at their disposal. The matter was remitted back to the committee for further consideration.

**Littlehampton.**—On Saturday, March 4th, Lord Edmund Talbot, M.P., laid the foundation stone of the new public library. The cost of the building (£2,500) is being borne by Mr. Carnegie, and the site of the building has been given by the Duke of Norfolk.

**Morecambe.**—At a meeting of the Town Council Alderman Snowden announced the result of the poll on the question of the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, and said there was a majority against the scheme of 229. The Free Libraries Committee had decided that the town clerk should communicate with Mr. Carnegie, and ask him if he would allow his offer of £4,000 to stand over, and also that the same request should be made to the Mayor of Morecambe, who offered £400 towards the cost of providing a site for the library.

**Stepney.**—At a meeting of the Stepney Borough Council, a letter was read from Mr. Andrew Carnegie stating that he had received an appeal on behalf of the Borough of Stepney libraries. He would be glad to pay for the erection of an addition to the Mile End Library to the amount of £6,000, it being understood that not less than £1,200 should be annually spent on the maintenance of the library.

Collections of stereoscopic views of Great Britain, Egypt, India, Races of Mankind, Architectural Examples, and Products of the World, have been added to the Limehouse and Mile End Libraries. The views have printed descriptions on the backs, and are neatly put up in cloth covered cases, which are made to resemble books externally. Each case contains fifty selected views of one subject, and they are issued for use in the Reference Department in the same way as books, a superior stereoscope accompanying each selection. We are informed that the collection of views will be con-

siderably increased, and extended to the St. George's and Whitechapel Libraries, as funds allow, and the several libraries will systematically interchange their collections. Unquestionably, the educational possibilities of this latest innovation are inestimable, and we congratulate Stepney on its alertness and up-to-date methods.

**St. Pancras.**—Mr. Carnegie has replied to an application from the Borough Council for a contribution towards the erection of libraries stating that he is willing to contribute £40,000 for a central and four branch libraries, on the usual conditions.

**Sunderland.**—As has been evident from letters which have recently appeared in our columns, the newsroom at the Victoria Hall was not in some respects satisfactory. Some of our correspondents even hinted vaguely at live stock, while only those whose olfactory equipment was defective could remain in the place without serious discomfort. Complaints have been constant that the chief habitués of the place were gentlemen with a thirst for sporting information, and that the man who wished to read news or to look for situations advertised was practically crowded out. Then again parents objected that their children were able to go to the room and read spicy divorce and breach of promise cases which would have been forbidden to them at home.

The Library Committee have been for some time trying to meet these various objections, and the result of their cogitations is shown by an investigation of the new magazine-rooms at 28 John Street. These rooms which are two in number, one opening into the other, are rather small, but are clean and well-lighted, and at the time of the visit of our representative were reasonably free from the customary newsroom odour. They are supplied with a good selection of magazines, but only with the advertisement sheets of the "Echo," and two or three other papers published in this district. At the door stands a uniformed janitor to act as a damper on the would-be frivolous and talkative.

It is round the newspaper question that criticism naturally centres. As a matter of fact, there is no news in the place, unless one regards advertisements of patent medicines and public announcements in that light. Betting cannot be now done at the expense of the ratepayers. This has naturally led to a thinning of the attendance, and several sporting gentlemen in search of racing facts and fancies have expressed their opinion on the change in forcible terms, and have, it is believed, washed their hands of the whole place.

To some people, while they approve of the absence of sporting news from the room, it will be somewhat puzzling to know why ordinary reading matter should have been excluded. In the first place it is asserted that it was not the intention of the Libraries Act that newspapers should be provided, and, therefore, the committee are acting within the law. But, further than that, it is said that the existence of newspapers in the room led to difficulty. Why not blot out the sporting news, one naturally asks, seeing that there is objection to that part of the newspapers. But the awkward thing is to know where to draw the line. If even cricket and football are left in some people will bet on them, and thus the full moral aims of the committee would be frustrated.

Again, when the newsroom idea was started newspapers were dearer than they are now. Fifty years ago people were known to pay a halfpenny for the loan of a paper for twenty minutes. Now, however, the papers

are within the reach of everyone, and certainly any man who can afford to bet can afford to buy one. As a matter of fact the newsroom is regarded as out of date, and in place of it the aim is to give a supply of technical, trade, literary, and social magazines. Not fictional, because if anyone wants fiction he can get it from the Free Library in any quantity, and if he wants fictional magazine reading there are bound volumes available at the Library in which he can indulge to his heart's content. Newspapers are not altogether abolished so far as the Library is concerned, for file copies are provided and can be referred to the day after publication by those who really desire newspaper reading.

Whether the change will meet the full approval of the public remains to be seen.

The list of magazines has been carefully revised, and certainly a first-class assortment is provided, the technical department being especially strongly represented.—"Sunderland Daily Echo."

**Tottenham.**—Mr. Percy Farrow on leaving Tottenham to take up his appointment as Librarian-in-Charge of the Brockley Library, Lewisham, was presented with a dressing case by his library colleagues as an expression of their esteem and best wishes.

**Tynemouth.**—Under the auspices of the Tynemouth Public Library Committee, an interesting lecture was delivered by Mr. George Hurrell, B.A., of North Shields (a member of the Public Library Committee), on "J. M. W. Turner, R.A., and his Engravers," in the Presbyterian Church Hall, Northumberland Square, North Shields. The lecture was intended to inaugurate the Turner section of the extensive collection of engravings bequeathed to the Tynemouth Public Library by the late Mr. J. S. Edington. It is estimated that when the whole of the collection is arranged there will be between 12,000 and 20,000 prints in pure line, mixed line, stipple, mezzotints, woodcuts, copper engravings, aquatints, etc., with a large variety of lithographs.

Mr. Chas. James Spence, Chairman of the Public Library Committee, presided over the proceedings. There was a large and appreciative audience. In the course of a few remarks at the outset the chairman said he had been asked to say a few words as the donor, the late Mr. J. S. Edington, to whose benefaction they owed the collection which was the subject of that evening's lecture. The collection, which he said was being arranged and bound by the Library Committee, was one which illustrated very fully the history of engraving in England during the last century. Mr. Edington was a collector whose interest chiefly centred in the work of J. M. W. Turner, R.A. He was a keen lover of the landscape scenery of the north; beyond this, he was one of the chief workers in establishing and keeping up the Mechanics' Institution, and the Public Library which succeeded it. As honorary secretary he gave a great part of his time every day to the selection and purchase of books for the library, and it was the wish of the committee that the valuable collection which he had left them should be arranged in such a way that it should be a lasting memorial of Mr. Edington's work. By the kindness of Mrs. Edington, that part of the collection which consists of books and of prints had been already transferred to the library, so that the work of classification might proceed at once.

Mr. Hurrell then proceeded with his lecture, showing upon the screen a great number of photographed reproductions, drawing attention to the

main features and peculiarities of the artist's work, and giving a brief account of his life. Extracts from the *Liber Studiorum*, the *England and Wales* series, the *Southern Coast*, *Rivers of England*, *Ports of England*, and *Rivers of France*, were exhibited and much appreciated, the whole of the works being loudly praised.

**West Ham.**—It is with considerable regret that we hear that Mr. A. Cotgreave, the chief librarian of West Ham, has decided to relinquish his position owing to failing health. Mr. Cotgreave has held this position for 14 years, and during that time has done valuable work for the library movement in West Ham. Not only has he organised the various libraries, but the gifts of Plaistow Library by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, and of Custom House Library by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, were largely due to his efforts.

We are given to understand that Mr. Cotgreave will leave the active ranks of the profession, and devote his energies to the various inventions which he has brought out in connection with library fittings.

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#### NEW MEMBERS.

**Senior.**—A. R. Cass, Stoke Newington; H. W. Checketts, University, Birmingham; E. Fletcher, Mile End; H. Holmes, Handsworth.

**Junior.**—G. B. Churchill, Croydon; S. H. Fisher, East Ham; R. H. Newey, Handsworth; W. Owen, Poplar; T. W. Powell, Kingston-on-Thames; R. H. Radley, East Ham; D. S. Young, East Ham.

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#### APPOINTMENTS.

\*BENNETT, Mr. W. J., Assistant-in-Charge of West End Branch Library, Hampstead, to be Sub-Librarian, Tottenham.

†CADDIE, Mr. E. H., Librarian of Chester, to be Librarian, Lowestoft.

\*CAMPLIN, Mr. P. W., Shoreditch, to be Assistant-Librarian, Hounslow.

MALE, Mr. Ernest, Chief Assistant, Lending Department, Brighton, to be Sub-Librarian; and PIPER, Mr. Alfred Cecil, Senior Assistant, to be Chief Assistant, Lending Department.

\* Members of the L.A.A.

† Past Member of the L.A.A.